

I concur with the intent of RM-10785 to eliminate requirements for Morse code in connection with an Amateur Radio Operator license. Although the petition included little detail regarding how Part 97 should be changed, the argument made for the immediate elimination of Morse code testing in the Amateur Radio Service is certainly compelling and quite valid. The Commission, through previous rule making, has made clear that Morse code, while historically significant, is really just one of many modes available for Amateur operators. The Commission has also made clear that the only reason for the Element 1 test for Amateur Radio Operator licenses was an obligation under international treaty. In July 2003 that obligation ceased to exist. As the Commission has already received numerous comments in past rule making decisions regarding the role of Morse code testing in the Amateur Radio Service, no further discussion should be required. The FCC should, as a provisional measure, drop the Element 1 requirement from Amateur Radio Service licensing immediately. The Commission should also move very quickly to change Part 97 through a rule and order to eliminate all references to Element 1 and Morse code proficiency testing while keeping the current Amateur Radio Operator licensing structure and Amateur Radio band plans intact.